

2023 Local Government Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timing of Local Government Elections?

The next City of Bunbury Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday 21 October 2023. Local Government Elections are held every two years on the third Saturday in October.

The Mayor for the City of Bunbury is elected every four years for a four-year term and was last elected in October 2021.

There are currently 12 Councillors in the City of Bunbury and half are elected every two years to serve a term of four years. Following changes to the *Local Government Act 1995* The City of Bunbury will be reducing the number of Councillors to 8 over the next 2 elections (10 Councillors in 2023 and 8 Councillors in 2025)

In October 2023 the City of Bunbury will hold elections for four Councillor positions.

Candidates in the 2023 October Election

Which of the current Elected Member's terms expire in 2023?

The terms of Councillors Giles, Kozisek, McCleary, Turner and Yip expire in 2023. Kris Plumb resigned as Councillor in January 2023, however due to reduction of Councillors at the 2023 election, there is no additional vacancy.

When do nominations for candidates open?

Thursday 31 August 2023.

When do nominations for candidates close?

Thursday 7 September 2023 at 4.00pm.

Who can be a candidate?

Anyone who is on the City of Bunbury Electoral Roll as a resident, or a non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property within the City of Bunbury (and is not disqualified) can be a candidate. Nominees of a body corporate cannot stand for election to Council. Further detail on who is qualified to be a candidate is outlined in sections 2.19 to 2.24 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Enrolment

Who is entitled to vote?

The roll for this election consists of:

1. Individuals who live in the City of Bunbury district and who are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll (the Resident's Roll)
2. Non-residents owners or occupiers of rateable property in the City of Bunbury district (the City's Non-resident Owners and Occupiers Roll).

What is the Residents' Roll?

Those residents who live in the City of Bunbury district that are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll are automatically enrolled on the Residents' Roll for local government elections.

What is the Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll?

Owners of land or nominees of corporate bodies who own or occupy rateable property in the City of Bunbury, but are not enrolled on the State Electoral Roll for the City of Bunbury district, may apply to be on the Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll, providing they are on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll for a residential address outside the City's district.

What is the Non-Resident Owners?

A non-resident owner is a person who owns rateable land within the City of Bunbury district but is not a resident. To be eligible to be on the roll, a non-resident owner must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll for the area where they live.

What is a Non-Resident Occupier?

A non-resident occupier is a person, living outside the City of Bunbury district whom leases or occupies rateable property within the City.

To be eligible to vote the person must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll where they live, and have a right of continuous occupation under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument of the property within the district where they seek a vote. The right of continuous occupation must extend for a period of at least three months at the time the person claims enrolment.

Are people who do not live in the City of Bunbury able to vote?

Yes. Electors of a local government consist of eligible non-resident property owners and occupiers and residents of the district. Local government provides services to both people and property and the rates levied are paid not only by residents but also non-resident business owners and other people who own or occupy property. Where people personally own or occupy property, but are not residents of the district, they are able to enrol to vote.

When is the last day I can enrol to vote in these Elections?

People who live in the City (whether they own a property or rent it) are automatically enrolled for the City of Bunbury Local Government Elections if they are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll. They must be enrolled on the State Electoral Roll by 5.00pm, Friday 25 August 2023 to be eligible to vote in the 2023 City of Bunbury Local Government Elections.

Residents should direct enquiries about the State Electoral Roll to the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.

Individuals and companies that own or occupy property in the City may enrol, (or nominees may be enrolled on behalf of companies) up to 5.00pm on Friday 25 August 2023 in order to be eligible to vote in the 2023 City of Bunbury Local Government Elections. Those enrolling must be on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll and reside outside of the City of Bunbury district.

What is the voting entitlement per person or property?

A person may have his or her name on the roll only once regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied. A company may have a maximum of two people on the roll as nominees of that company regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied.

“Occupation” means having a right under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument, to be in continuous occupation of a definable piece of rateable property for a least the next three months after the date of application.

Enrolment Forms

Enrolment forms may be obtained from the City of Bunbury [website](#) (see “Council Elections” under the category “Your Council”).

Alternatively forms can be obtained by:

- Emailing a request to records@bunbury.wa.gov.au; or
- Phoning 9792 7000

The Elections

Who conducts the elections?

The elections will be conducted by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) as a postal election. Election Packages containing information on the candidates, instructions on how to vote, the ballot paper, and the return envelopes will be posted to electors about three weeks before the Election Day.

Is voting compulsory?

No, voting in local government elections is not compulsory in Western Australia.

Is early or absent voting available?

No. Early or absent voting is not available for postal elections. If you are going to be away at the time of the election, you need to get someone to forward your ballot voting package to you.

By when must the ballot paper be returned?

All ballot papers must be returned by 6.00pm on Saturday 21 October 2023 to be included in the count for the election. Additional time needs to be considered to ensure delivery of the ballot papers to the WAEC by Australia Post.

On Election Day, Saturday 21 October 2023 election packages can be personally delivered to the Returning Officer, who will be in the City of Bunbury Administration Centre, 4 Stephen Street, Bunbury between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

What if I don't receive a postal voting package?

Election packages are posted to all electors on the City of Bunbury roll approximately three weeks before Election Day. Every person on the roll will be issued a ballot paper by mail and invited to complete the ballot paper and return it to the City by 6.00pm on Election Day.

A replacement package can be issued if it has been lost or destroyed.

For any other information or for more detail on a particular topic:

The WAEC Returning Officer for the 2023 City of Bunbury Local Government Elections will be advised on the City's website closer to the opening date of nominations.

In the meantime, further information can be obtained by visiting the City of Bunbury website bunbury.wa.gov.au or the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website dlgsc.wa.gov.au.